

FACT SHEET



FEMALE OFFENDER REFORM

As described in the Little Hoover Commission report “*Breaking the Barriers for Women on Parole (12/04)*”, a significant number of female inmates do not represent a serious threat to public safety. They are often housed in “mega-prisons” far from their communities and families. As part of a renewed commitment to rehabilitation, Governor Schwarzenegger’s proposal would authorize the CDCR to contract with community organizations to provide as many as 4,500 beds in residential settings so that non-serious, nonviolent female offenders could receive more intensive rehabilitative programming and services while serving their sentences closer to their families rather than in existing prisons which are located in remote areas.

The proposal is designed to provide female offenders with structured individually tailored treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration services that are intended to reduce the occurrence of repeat offending, enhance public safety and break the intergenerational cycle of crime and incarceration. These Female Rehabilitative Community Correctional Centers (FRCCCs) are intended to strengthen family ties by making it easier for children to have regular contact with their mothers. Studies show that over half of the children of incarcerated mothers never visit their mothers during incarceration. This program is designed to enhance mother/child and family relationships which is a key factor identified by criminologists in motivating female offenders and parolees to resume a constructive life.

Although the facilities will be operated by private contractors, female offenders will be supervised by correctional officers of the CDCR. The concept is expected to be introduced in legislation in August, when the Legislature convenes a Special Session called by the Governor to address prison reform issues.

WHO WOULD QUALIFY:

Only female offenders with non-violent convictions and who pose a low security risk would be eligible to be placed in the proposed FRCCCs.

There are approximately 5,900 female offenders who have been convicted of non-violent property and drug related offenses.

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SERVICES:

Female Rehabilitative Community Correctional Facilities would provide a wide range of services. They would include:

- ☒ Trauma treatment
- ☒ Substance abuse treatment/Sober Living Skills
- ☒ 12-Step Program
- ☒ Education and Vocational training
- ☒ Medical, Mental Health, Dental treatment
- ☒ Counseling, individual, group & family
- ☒ Skill Building
- ☒ Community Linkages

WHERE WOULD THEY BE:

Female Rehabilitative Community Correctional Centers would be located in most urban areas in California to allow female offenders to be closer to their families and to services in the communities where they have lived and will be returned at the conclusion of their sentences. Currently, female offenders are housed in four prisons in Southern California and the San Joaquin Valley, which often place them hundreds of miles from their homes, making reintegration into the community difficult.

Specific locations for these facilities cannot be determined until proposals (RFP's) have been submitted by bidders and evaluated by CDCR. Bid proposals for 75, 100 and 200 bed facilities will be accepted for the following areas based on State Prison commitments from these areas.

- ☒ South Coast Basin:
 - (Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino Counties) 2,050
- ☒ San Diego and Imperial: 325
- ☒ Rural Northern California 250
- ☒ Northern San Francisco Bay area 100
- ☒ Southern San Francisco Bay area (including San Francisco) 350
- ☒ Mid Central region (Alpine, Calaveras, Mariposa, Merced, Mono
San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tuolumne) 175
- ☒ Central Valley 550
- ☒ Sacramento Metropolitan area 350
- ☒ Southern Coastal area 200

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Total: 4,350

In summary, the concept of placing female offenders in community-based settings closer to their homes is part of an overall plan for improving outcomes for female offenders. Since February, 2005, the CDCR has adopted policy and program changes, assisted by the Gender Responsive Strategies Commission comprised, in part, of legislative representatives, national experts, correctional practitioners, recognized researchers in the field of female incarceration, as well as former incarcerated women.

These reforms reflect the recommendations of the Little Hoover Commission and the research on gender responsive strategies conducted by the National Institute of Corrections.